

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A local entity without its own means of voice communication is provided with the  
5 semblance of having a voice interaction capability. This is done by providing an associated  
voice service hosted separately from the entity, the service being initiated when a user  
comes near the entity. The service uses audio input and output devices that are located  
either in user-carried equipment or in the locality of the entity. The voice service can be  
delivered to multiple users simultaneously with the users being joined into the same  
10 communication session with the voice service so that all users hear at least some of the  
same service output. The voice service can be arranged to serve a group of associated  
entities, not necessarily near each other.